



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
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Washington, DC 20530-0001

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Emma Best
MuckRock News
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Re: Appeal Nos. DOJ-AP-2019-002655¹
Request Nos. 1422572-000²
MWH:EMY:JNW:PJA:RNB

VIA: Email

Dear Emma Best:

You appealed from the actions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on your Freedom of Information Act requests for access to records concerning various dark net markets and websites. I note that your appeals concern the FBI's refusal to confirm or deny the existence of requested records. Please note that this Office was closed due to a lapse in funding appropriations between December 22, 2018, and January 25, 2019, which resulted in a delay in responding to your appeal.

After carefully considering your appeals, I am affirming the FBI's actions on your requests. The FOIA provides for disclosure of many agency records. At the same time, Congress included in the FOIA nine exemptions from disclosure that provide protection for important interests such as personal privacy, privileged communications, and certain law enforcement activities. The FBI properly refused to confirm or deny the existence of any records responsive to your requests because the existence of such records is protected from disclosure pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(A), and it is reasonably foreseeable that disclosure of this information would harm the interests protected by this provision. This provision concerns records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes the release of which could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings.

Additionally, the FBI properly refused to confirm or deny the existence of any records responsive to your requests because the existence of such records is protected from disclosure pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(E), and it is reasonably foreseeable that disclosure of this information would harm the interests protected by this provision. This provision concerns records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes the release of which would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions.

¹ In addition to DOJ-AP-2019-002655, this letter serves as a response to the series of appeal numbers listed in the attached spreadsheet.

² In addition to Request No. 1422572-000, this letter serves as a response to the series of request numbers listed in the attached spreadsheet.

Please be advised that this Office's decision was made only after a full review of these matters. Your appeals were assigned to attorneys with this Office who thoroughly reviewed and analyzed your appeals, your underlying requests, and the actions of the FBI in response to your requests.

If you are dissatisfied with my action on your appeals, the FOIA permits you to file a lawsuit in federal district court in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B).

For your information, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. If you have any questions regarding the action this Office has taken on your appeals, you may contact this Office's FOIA Public Liaison for your appeal. Specifically, you may speak with the undersigned agency official by calling (202) 514-3642.

Sincerely,

3/21/2019

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Hurd - M".

Matthew Hurd, Associate Chief, for
Sean O'Neill, Chief, Administrative Appeals Staff
Signed by: MATTHEW HURD

Enclosure

Appeal number	Request number	Subject of Request
DOJ-AP-2019-002655	1422572-000	Cloud-Nine
DOJ-AP-2019-002656	1422574-000	Area51
DOJ-AP-2019-002657	1422576-000	Cantina
DOJ-AP-2019-002658	1422577-000	DarkBay
DOJ-AP-2019-002659	1422585-000	Agape
DOJ-AP-2019-002660	1422592-000	Blue Sky
DOJ-AP-2019-002661	1422595-000	GreyRoad
DOJ-AP-2019-002662	1422599-000	Anarchia
DOJ-AP-2019-002663	1422601-000	Black Goblin Market
DOJ-AP-2019-002664	1422602-000	Diabolus/SR3
DOJ-AP-2019-002665	1422619-000	Doge Road
DOJ-AP-2019-002666	1422620-000	East India Company
DOJ-AP-2019-002667	1422631-000	Abraxas
DOJ-AP-2019-002668	1422632-000	Andromeda
DOJ-AP-2019-002669	1422636-000	1776
DOJ-AP-2019-002670	1422643-000	BlackMarket Reloaded
DOJ-AP-2019-002671	1422648-000	AlphaBay
DOJ-AP-2019-002672	1422651-000	Darknet Heroes League
DOJ-AP-2019-002673	1422653-000	Hansa
DOJ-AP-2019-002674	1422656-000	Evolution
DOJ-AP-2019-002675	1422657-000	Drugslist
DOJ-AP-2019-002696	1422658-000	Deepbay
DOJ-AP-2019-002697	1422665-000	Armory Vendor Market
DOJ-AP-2019-002698	1422668-000	Breaking Bad
DOJ-AP-2019-002699	1422669-000	Alpaca Marketplace
DOJ-AP-2019-002700	1422671-000	Black Services Market
DOJ-AP-2019-002701	1422672-000	Free Market
DOJ-AP-2019-002702	1422676-000	Dream Market
DOJ-AP-2019-002703	1422699-000	BlackBank Market
DOJ-AP-2019-002704	1422700-000	Agora
DOJ-AP-2019-002705	1422709-000	Budster
DOJ-AP-2019-002706	1422710-000	Atlantis
DOJ-AP-2019-002707	1422712-000	FloMarket
DOJ-AP-2019-002708	1422717-000	FreeBay
DOJ-AP-2019-002709	1422718-000	EXXTACY
DOJ-AP-2019-002710	1422719-000	Cannabis Road
DOJ-AP-2019-002711	1422720-000	BlackBox Market
DOJ-AP-2019-002712	1422723-000	Darknet Nation
DOJ-AP-2019-002713	1422726-000	Freedom Market
DOJ-AP-2019-002714	1422729-000	BuyltNow

DOJ-AP-2019-002715	1422732-000	Amazon Dark
DOJ-AP-2019-002717	1422734-000	Crypto Market
DOJ-AP-2019-002718	1424582-000	Cryptocomb
DOJ-AP-2019-002720	1425660-000	TorMarket
DOJ-AP-2019-002722	1425661-000	Nucleus Marketplace
DOJ-AP-2019-002723	1425662-000	Mr Nice Guy
DOJ-AP-2019-002724	1425663-000	TorBazaar
DOJ-AP-2019-002725	1425664-000	Silk Street
DOJ-AP-2019-002727	1425668-000	Kiss
DOJ-AP-2019-002729	1425671-000	TOM
DOJ-AP-2019-002730	1425675-000	Onionshop
DOJ-AP-2019-002733	1425676-000	Tortuga
DOJ-AP-2019-002735	1425684-000	Pandora
DOJ-AP-2019-002737	1425689-000	Hydra
DOJ-AP-2019-002738	1425690-000	Horizon Market
DOJ-AP-2019-002739	1425697-000	Topix 2
DOJ-AP-2019-002740	1425698-000	Outlaw Market
DOJ-AP-2019-002741	1425699-000	White Rabbit
DOJ-AP-2019-002742	1425704-000	Tochka
DOJ-AP-2019-002744	1425705-000	Project Black Flag
DOJ-AP-2019-002745	1425706-000	Sanitarium Market
DOJ-AP-2019-002746	1425712-000	Pigeon Market
DOJ-AP-2019-002747	1425717-000	Poseidon
DOJ-AP-2019-002749	1425718-000	Ironclad
DOJ-AP-2019-002750	1425720-000	Panacea
DOJ-AP-2019-002751	1425724-000	Middle Earth Marketplace
DOJ-AP-2019-002752	1425728-000	Zanzibar Spice
DOJ-AP-2019-002753	1425734-000	Pirate Market
DOJ-AP-2019-002754	1425737-000	Tornado
DOJ-AP-2019-002755	1425739-000	Red Sun Marketplace
DOJ-AP-2019-002756	1425754-000	Underground Market
DOJ-AP-2019-002757	1425757-000	The Marketplace
DOJ-AP-2019-002759	1425760-000	Simply Bear
DOJ-AP-2019-002760	1425763-000	TheRealDeal
DOJ-AP-2019-002761	1425765-000	Absolem
DOJ-AP-2019-002762	1425766-000	Utopia
DOJ-AP-2019-002763	1425770-000	TorBay
DOJ-AP-2019-002764	1425771-000	Silk Road
DOJ-AP-2019-002765	1425772-000	Sheep Marketplace
DOJ-AP-2019-002766	1425776-000	TorEscrow
DOJ-AP-2019-002767	1425777-000	Oxygen